

MRS. HALL COOPER'S

Defense Tactics Leave Jersey Authorities Again in Deadlock.

WITHOUT NEW EVIDENCE

Reporters, After Interview, Left to Puzzle Over Mysterious Slayings.

BY ROBERT TOMPKINS.

Special Dispatch to The Star.
NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., November 2.—The "defense" has scored another great psychological victory and the investigation into the Hall-Mills murder mystery appears to have come to another dead end.

It was a bold stroke that placed Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, widow of the slain rector of St. John's, before the bar of public opinion, leaving her there alone to battle against two score men and women who had studied the case in every detail. But it was a telling move against the prosecution.

Mrs. Hall has been the closely hooded figure in the mystery ever since the bodies of the minister and his choir singer were found side by side. She and her family knew full well that suspicion and perhaps the condemnation of public opinion, centered about this calm, self-reliant, but now was and was woman whose graceful hair seems to set at an aristocratic angle on her head.

But the public has wondered what was Mrs. Hall's story? Now they have it. At least they have as much as the prosecution, sometimes active and sometimes passive, has been able to get from their constant questioning of the wealthy widow, whose family connections are of the highest in New Brunswick. They know what Mrs. Hall has said under the pressure of as much of the "third degree" as any woman has ever had to endure.

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It is one thing to set up a theory of a crime and quite something else again to give that theory the necessary support. Beyond the reasonable shadow of a doubt, to bring it before twelve good men and true.

Closely Questioned.
Mrs. Hall in her interview with the reporters has done more to keep the case alive than some of the prosecution's questions. She has been asked some very searching and intimate questions about her thoughts and actions on the night of the murder. The reporters asked questions that would have allowed in a court of justice. Mrs. Hall faced them all unflinchingly.

There was much talk today of how the "defense" so repeatedly has scored against the prosecution in the whole affair. The "defense" from the Hall-Mills case has been a step ahead of the prosecution.

Where the prosecution has hesitated or refused to speak the "defense" has been valuable. Witnesses for the "defense" have been examined by the camera in the presence of photographers. This case has brought about some strange associations, but the strangest of all is that the "pig woman" and the "pig man" of New Brunswick aristocracy ever should be arrayed against each other.

Defense Ahead in Case.
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Giving Consolation.
"Did you try to console the widow of the man who was killed in that automobile accident?" I asked her. She could remember her husband had been killed in that way.

WOODHOUSE ADMITS SON COURTED WOMAN N. D. C.

(Continued from First Page.)

sorted and destitute, she asked the court for alimony and financial aid from the husband pending outcome of the suit.

A dramatic incident occurred in the courtroom of the courthouse this morning, when the younger Mrs. Woodhouse and the millionaire co-defendant accidentally collided. With one glance at the attractive young plaintiff, the elder Woodhouse, who yesterday swore under oath that he had never seen his daughter-in-law in his life until the opening of this trial, although she was born and reared within fifty yards of his home, muttered his apologies and hastily withdrew.

Banker on Stand.
The elder Woodhouse, who is millionaire, National Bank of Boston, and father of Charles Douglas Woodhouse, obviously unimpaired by the frequent loss of memory, when recalled to the stand just before adjournment yesterday afternoon, was forced to admit that he not only acted as host to Mrs. Lillian Hendrick McCelland of Washington on numerous occasions, but lavished costly gifts upon her.

Most of the visits made by the beautiful Mrs. McCelland, it was admitted, were after his son's wedding, as were his gifts. He was not aware of the fact that Mrs. McCelland was the mistress of honor at his son's wedding, he insisted.

When and where did you entertain Mrs. McCelland? demanded Attorney Warren K. Austin, counsel for Mrs. Dorrit Woodhouse.

"I do not remember," replied the witness.

Admits Invitation.
"Your honor, stated Attorney Austin, 'this defendant suffers a most extraordinary lapse of memory. We get down to the real facts of this case and I must insist that he render intelligent replies to my queries. I am not the witness' attitude,' turning toward the unimpaired banker."

"That he is under oath," Mrs. McCelland, who had been quietly remarking the court.

Then it was that the elder Woodhouse admitted that he had invited Mrs. McCelland to his home "several times" after 1920. "My son might have been present. I really do not know," he replied to further questioning.

The millionaire also admitted he had invited Mrs. McCelland to his home "several times" after 1920. "My son might have been present. I really do not know," he replied to further questioning.

After nearly a half hour of persistent questioning and after appealing to the court for assistance, Attorney Austin secured a list of the gifts he gave Mrs. McCelland.

Nothing New Developed.
Numerous jewels and rings, valued at \$4,500, a set of seal furs which the elder Woodhouse originally bought for his own wife, one of his valuable motor cars which he released in her name and other articles of smaller value were included in the list.

Was there, at your Park avenue home, any question regarding the gifts which Douglas has made to Lillian?

"No, so far as I was concerned," "You thought it perfectly proper for your son, a married man with a respectable and refined wife to make gifts to this Lillian Hendrick McCelland?" demanded Attorney Austin.

"Yes," replied the witness after some hesitation.

When did you first hear that Douglas had flirted with Lillian?

She smiled when her father-in-law admitted that not until after he had read his son's deposition for a divorce did he restore to him the sixty-five thousand-dollar fortune which had been his since his marriage. Mrs. Woodhouse also scored heavily when her father-in-law testified that, although he had bestow large gifts of money on him, they gave him nothing after his marriage.

NOT JEALOUS OF SINGER, SAYS WIDOW OF RECTOR

Denies She Was on Murder Scene as Described by Mrs. Gibson, and Gives Account of Actions to Press.

In Yesterday's 5:30 Star

Dan Ring's dramatic story of the first interview given by Mrs. Hall to newspaper correspondents, printed below, is reproduced from yesterday's 5:30 edition of The Star.

When the last regular edition of yesterday's Star went to press the correspondents were closeted with Mrs. Hall at her New Brunswick home. The interview came to an end about the time the last regular Stars were being run off the presses. Mr. Ring's story began arriving at The Star office, over two special wires, about 4 o'clock, and was concluded shortly before 5. The 5:30 edition was being sold on the streets within a few minutes after the last "take" of the story was received.

Another "scoop" for yesterday's 5:30 edition was the story of the young woman and her baby found in Rock Creek Park suffering from the effects of poison administered by the mother.

It is not every day that such stories "break" between 3:30 and 5 o'clock, but the fact that they do break is an explanation why, in order completely to cover the afternoon field and give the reading public the utmost in service, The Star inaugurated its 5:30 edition.

BY DAN RING.
Star Correspondent of The Star.
NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., November 2.—In a room full of newspaper men, so quiet that the ticking of an antique clock could plainly be heard, Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, widow of the slain rector of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, yesterday afternoon told of her movements on the night of the murder and reaffirmed her denials of any knowledge of the tragedy. Probably the most dramatic moment in the interview came when she was asked:

"What is your feeling toward your husband?"

A dead quiet followed the question. The clock ticked, china rattled in the kitchen far to the rear. Then Mrs. Hall answered in a low, steady voice:

"I feel he is true to me."

This question was followed by another, regarding her feeling toward Mrs. Mills.

"What is your feeling toward Mrs. Mills?" she was asked.

"I do not know what to say," she replied.

The interviewer interjected: "Mac?" She replied in the same words.

Then came another dramatic moment. It disclosed an angle of Mrs. Hall's make-up in a forcible manner.

The question was: "Do you feel at all inimical toward her (Mrs. Mills) in your heart?"

"I have no vindictive feeling," replied the widow.

No Limit to Questions.
Before Mrs. Hall entered the room her attorney, Timothy N. Heffner, announced to the fifteen newspaper men present that the interview would take place in the interview, but would absent himself from that section of the house. He placed no limitation upon the questions to be asked Mrs. Hall, but he did insist that the interview be conducted in a calm and dignified manner.

Her dress was trimmed with black lace and her shoes were simple but attractive black taffeta. She sat down and crossed her right leg over her left. That posture she maintained practically throughout the interview. She placed one hand on the arm of a chair. The hand was motionless for almost a quarter of an hour. Her breathing was a little fast at the start, but apparently was quite normal by the time the interview was drawing to its final stages.

Mrs. Hall now has gray hair mixed with black, the gray being very pronounced on the top of her head. She has a large round face, without lines, except from the side of her nose toward the mouth corners. Her nose is pronouncedly Roman. Her eyebrows are almost black and are very heavy.

But her eyes are the outstanding point about her. A dark blue in color, they are firm eyes. She fixes them on the person to whom she is speaking with a direct gaze.

The interview took place in the south living room of the Hall house. Antique bookshelves lined the walls. A white ceiling contrasted with buff wall paper and gave the room a cozy feeling. A child's toy, a sort of toy chest, stood in the corner. The room was filled with the furniture for the most part was antique.

Answers Many Queries.
The impression Mrs. Hall gave as she sat in an armchair was that of a deliberate type of character, inclined to be phlegmatic, and yet with a rather strong personality. Without

police who I was. I asked if there had been any accident which might account for his not returning.

Denies Gibson Story.
Q. Have you any comment to make, Mrs. Hall, of that part of Mrs. Gibson's statement in which she says you were present at the Phillips farm on the night of September 14?

A. What comment could I make? Of course, that was not so, and that was all.

Q. You weren't there?

A. I certainly was not.

Q. Did you leave your house on any time that night except when you went out with your brother?

A. No.

Q. Will you tell us your movements on the night of September 14, as near as you can recall?

A. We had our supper about 6:30 and I went out on the porch for a little while after that. I had Mr. Hall's little niece with me, his brother was there, and Mr. Hall was here.

Q. Did you see Mr. Hall on the porch for a while and then a little later came in with this little girl with her for a while until half past eight or quarter to nine—somewhere along there—and put her to bed?

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A. Yes.

A. I do not know what to say.

Q. Do you feel at all inimical toward her in your heart?

A. I have no vindictive feeling.

Q. Do you know anything, Mrs. Hall, which you do not care to tell for fear the newspapers will say that you know, very near and dear to you?

A. Nothing.

Q. In other words, you are holding back nothing?

A. Never.

Q. Absolutely nothing.

Q. Why is it, Mrs. Hall, that you say you have doubt as to the letters and the diary being authentic?

A. Because it seems so unlikely that Mr. Hall would have written such things from what I know of him.

Q. Have you made any comparison of the handwriting?

A. No.

Q. What do you intend to do so?

A. I do not know what to do.

Q. What made you think on the night of that Thursday that Mr. Hall might be at the Phillips place?

A. The only thing I could think of for his not coming was possibly he had gone to the church and had fallen asleep over a book. He occasionally would read there and fall asleep. There is just a chance.

Q. Did you have a discussion or argument or quarrel with Mr. Hall with reference to his being so frequently with Mrs. Mills?

A. No.

Q. The question never came up between you?

A. Never.

GRAND JURY ACTION NEAR.

Officials See Nothing in Way of Indictment Now.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., November 2.—Before the week ends the grand jury and the grand jury of Newark's police force are expected to return indictments in the Hall-Mills murder mystery.

This statement is based on statements of officials and actions of the grand jury.

"The prosecution is satisfied that the case has developed to the extent of going before the grand jury before the end of the week," said the official.

"We can think of nothing that will prevent the grand jury from coming out with a verdict," he added.

Additional corroboration in one of the cases of evidence. This concerns an automobile that was parked in the driveway of the Phillips place, near the Phillips farm, on the night of the murder. That is the only point of speculation at present.

Newark Police on Scene.

Three experts from the Newark police department dropped quickly into town yesterday and went silently to work. One was Lieut. Edward

Schwartz, Bertillon expert, and the chief of the Newark police bureau of identification. He was accompanied by Lieut. Paul Deriveaux, an expert of the same system, and Lieut. Day, the photographer, and Fred Sanburg, the photographer.

Schwartz took up the work of diagramming the Phillips farm, where the bodies were found. He spent several hours making maps marking various spots that will appear in the testimony. He made measurements and checked up with intimate evidence on the oral evidence of the investigators.

Lieut. Day set up his camera and got surroundings of the spot where the murder took place. There was such a bustle at the farm that the experts testified later that they had been affronted by persons inquiring: "Are you newspaper men, too?"

Data Submitted.